LOK SABHA

Monday November 25, 1991/4 Agrahayana,1913 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Y.S. Rajasekhar Reddy (Cuddapah).

11.01 hrs

[*English*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR.SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues, Shri Parmai Lal.

Shri Parmai Lal was a Member of Sixth Lok Sabha during 1977-79 from Hardoi constituency of Uttar Pradesh. In 1989 general Elections, he was simultaneously elected both to the Ninth Lok Sabha and the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly from Hardoi district. He, however, chose to retain the Assembly seat and resigned from the membership of Lok Sabha. Earlier also he had been a Member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly during 1962-67 and 1969-74.

Shri Parmai Lal ably served on the State Council of Ministers.

An active social and political worker, he worked vigorously for more than two decades for the welfare and upliftment of weaker sections of the society.

Shri Parmai Lal passed away on 12 November, 1991 at New Delhi.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

(*The Members then stood in silence for a short while.*)

11.03 hrs

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Power Projects In Madhya Pradesh

*41. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power projects approved during the last three years in the country;

(b) whether the projects in Madhya Pradesh have been given priority while according approval; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) During the last three years viz. 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91, 36 power projects in the country have been accorded Government sanction.

(b) and (c). The Central Government does not accord any preferential treatment to projects submitted by a particular State. The schemes submitted by States are examined and approved by the Central Government on their techno-economic merits.

The details of projects sanctioned for Madhya Pradesh during the last three years and during 1991-92 are as under:-

S.No.	Name of Project	Capacity (MW)
1.	Sanjay Gandhi Extn. Unit-3 & 4	2X210
2.	Pench Unit-1 & 2	2 X210
3.	Korba West Unit-5 & 6	2X210

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been said during the last three years viz. 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91, 36 power projects have been cleared and granted approval. This approval is accorded after techno-economic clearance is given by Central Electricity Authority through Planning Commission. No discrimination is done to any state. Power projects can be set up in those places where water, coal and other inputs are easily available. The State Governments are competent to accord approval to the small projects involving expenditure upto Rs. 25 crore and the Central Government approves the big projects involving more than Rs. 25 crores.

SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per my information nearly 14 projects are pending with the State Govt. I would like to know form the hon. Minister whether they are adequate in view of the population and area of Madhya Pradesh and also whether any project is pending with the states Govt. and also the names of the projects which would be completed in 1992, the investment proposed to be made on them and the action proposed to be taken on the pending power projects.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already replied to his question, but as you have asked it, I would like to submit that during 1988-89, 89-90, 90-91 hydel projects of 4, 289 MW, 2327 MW, 14, 789 MW and 1240 MW capacity respectively were approved. During the last three years 36 projects were accorded sanctions and among those 36 projects, three projects of 1260 MW capacity each were for Madhya Pradesh but due to financial constraints implementation of these projects could not be started. The Sanjay Gandhi expansion project of 2X210 M. Watts capacity Pench unit of 2X 210 Megawatt capacity and Korba west Unit of 2 X 210 Megawatts capacity are under consideration in Madhya Pradesh but these schemes are lying pending due to financial constraints.

SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Sir, the hon. Minister is requested to inform us about the time by which the remaining 14 projects will be completed.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Mr Speaker, Sir, some schemes are implemented by the state Governments and some projects are in the Central Sector and for exension of those projects Central Government is responsible. As such it is the responsibility of the State Government to complete the projects in their

respective states after sanction has been accorded to them.

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon Minister as has told that the three projects of Madhya Pradesh are pending due to financial constraints, I would like to know whether there is any proposal to provide financial aid to the State by the Central Government and if so, the amount and time by which it will be made available. Is it a fact that the Government has approved a Gas based power project at Bhander (Madhya Pradesh) and if so, the latest position of this project?

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Mr. speaker, Sir, some projects are entrusted to the Central sector and some to the State sector. Owing to financial constraints the Private Sector participation had to be allowed and pench Projects is under private sector.The second issue is regarding the Bhander Gas projects which is still under consideration of the Government but it has not been accorded techno-economic clearance and Planning Commission has also not cleared it because of non-availability of fuel linkage.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the quantum of shortage of electricity in Madhya Pradesh and about remaining three power projects. Apart from the project that has been given to the private sector. I would like to know the time by which funds will be provided to the remaining two projects. These two projects are the responsibility of State Government or Central Government or only Central Government and would you kindly tell us about the time by which funds will be provided for the completion of these projects.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, these two projects are under consideration of State Government and since the State Government has to finance the entire project, only they can throw some light on this subject.

[*English*]

Varadan Committee on Electronic Media

*42. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vardan Committee on electronic media has submitted its report to the Government; and

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the Committee and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main recommendations of the Committee are given in the Statement attached. The Report is being examined by Government.

STATEMENT

Main Recommendations of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Introducing Competition in the Electronic media

The Committee acknowledges the need for introducing competition in the electronic media.

2. The Committee has listed out the various options available to the government for introducing competition, ranking them in the following order of priority:

(a) Setting up of new TV/ Radio channels for regional broadcast may be allowed in the different parts of the country subject to viability of operations including suitable